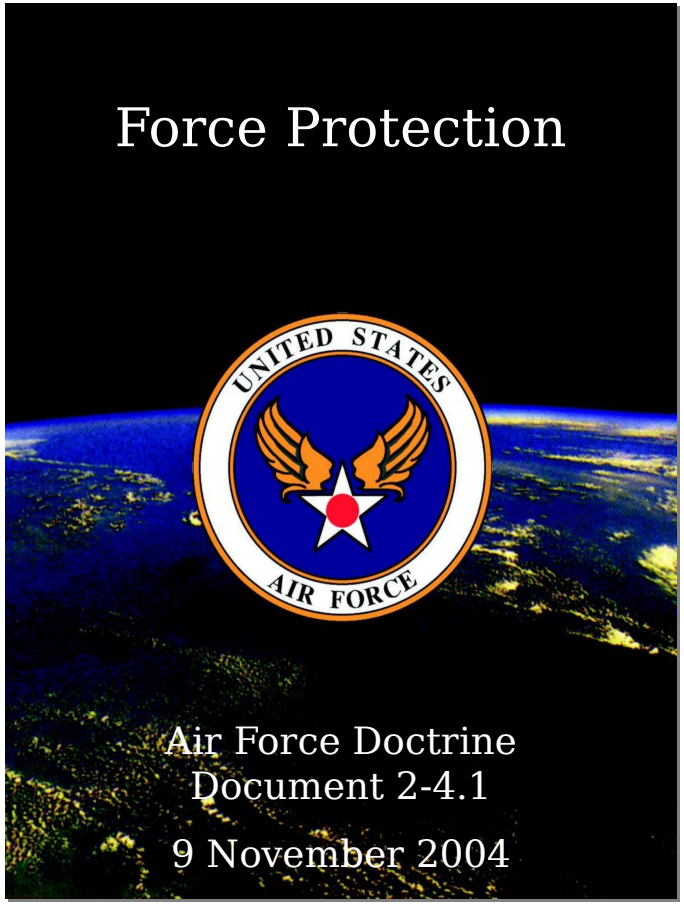
Headquarters Air Force Doctrine Center

Integrity - Service - Excellence



AFDD 2-4.1, Force Protection

Discussion: Contents

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Discussion: Force Protection Overview

- **Force protection (FP) is an integrated application of offensive and defensive actions that deter, detect, preempt, mitigate, or negate threats against Air Force air and space operations and assets, based on an acceptable level of risk.**
- **Every Airman is a sensor. Protecting the force is everyone's duty.**
- **Threats, vulnerabilities, and risk drive everything accomplished in FP.**

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Discussion: Organizing for Force Protection

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- Force protection is an **inherent responsibility of command.** Accordingly, commanders at all levels must make force protection an imperative.
- Commanders should appoint a **single FP focal point**, an individual trained and versed in FP issues and methodologies with appropriate rank and experience, to act as their advisor on all FP issues.
- **FP is not exclusively a Service responsibility**; geographic combatant commanders have the overall requirement to establish and implement FP in their areas of responsibility (AORs).

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Discussion: Force Protection Threats

- The essential goal of force protection is to **counter threats against Air Force personnel and assets**.
- Threats to Air Force interests occur **across the continuum of Air Force operations** from peacetime through wartime operations.
- Commanders should consider the **effects intended to be produced by the threat**, not just the nature of the threat itself.

Discussion: Countering the Threats

- A commander must know what threat is being confronted in order to devise a means to counter it. Without this knowledge, the commander is acting blindly.
- Commanders must take deliberate action to implement comprehensive countermeasures to deny an adversary information, access, and influence, thereby deterring him from taking action against friendly forces.

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Discussion: Integrated Base Defense

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- IBD is the integrated application of offensive and defensive action, both active and passive, taken across the ground dimension of the force protection battlespace to achieve local and area dominance in support of force protection.
- IBD is viewed as an element of a well-defined, networked command and control architecture and is essential to achieve responsive base defense.

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Doctrine helps establish Service identity and culture